GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:991
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
CONTROL OF BLINDNESS
Gadakh Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes undertaken by Blindness Control Society and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to control blindness in the country;

(b) the implementation of such programmes particularly in Mumbai and Maharashtra; and

(c) the details of the major NGOs engaged in cataract operation in Mumbai?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) The National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented in all States/UTs through State Blindness Control Societies (since merged with State Health and Family Welfare Societies) and District Blindness Control Societies (since merged with District Health and Family Welfare Societies). Funds for implementation of the programme are released to State Health and Family Welfare Societies for further disbursement to District Health and Family Welfare Societies for carrying out various activities of the programme. The major activities of District Health and Family Welfare Societies under NPCB are as under:-

1) to assess the magnitude and spread of blindness in district by means of active case finding, village wise, to be recorded and maintained in Blind Registers;

2) to organize screening camps for identifying those requiring cataract surgery and other blinding disorders, organize transportation and conduct of free medical and surgical services including cataract surgery for the poor in Government facilities or NGOs supporting the programme;

3) to plan and organize training of community level workers, teachers and ophthalmic assistants/ nurses involved in eye care services;

4) to procure drugs and consumables including micro-surgical instruments required in the government facilities;

5) to receive and monitor use of funds, equipments and material from the government and other agencies/donors;

6) to involve voluntary and private hospitals providing free/ subsidized eye care services in the district and identify NGO facilities that can be considered for grants under the programme;

7) to organize screening of school children for detection of refractive errors and other rtye problems and provide free spectacles to poor children;

8) to promote eye donation through various media and monitor collection and utilization of eyes collected by eye donation centres and eye banks;

The role of identified NGOs under NPCB is as under:-

1) to conduct public and professional awareness on eye donation;

2) to provide public response system for eye donation;

3) to screen 50+ population in villages/townships allotted to them;

4) to identify cases which are fit for cataract surgeries, motivation thereof and transportation to the base hospital ;

5) to provide post operative care including management of complications etc.

b): The approved activities under the programme, as mentioned above, are implemented by the State/District Societies and identified NGOs in Maharashtra including Mumbai.

In addition, it has been informed by the Govt. of Maharashtra that the NGOs in Mumbai organize diagnostic and treatment camps in various parts of city, specially in slums and in densely populated areas. During the camps, the patients are screened for cataract. The Patients who require cataract operations are investigated and suitable schedule is made to operate these patients at various hospitals free of charge.

(c) The following major NGOs are engaged in cataract operations in Mumbai under NPCB:-

1) Vision Foundation of India, 5, Babulnath Road, Mumbai-7;

2) Haji Bacchoo Ali Charitable Ophthalmic Hospital, Parel, Mumbai-12;

3) Dr. C.M. Shah Memorial Charitable Trust Hospital, Borivali (W), Mumbai-12;

4) K.J. Sommaya Hospital, Chunabhati, Mumbai;

5) B.S.E.S. MG Hospita, S.V.Road, Opp. Andheri Station (W), Mumbai-58.